

OBSERVATIONS BY THE EDITOR.

How Farmer Law-Makers Might Change Things and Make the Non-Productive Bend the Knee.—The Picture Reversed With the Farmer in the Saddle.

When the Kicker began its exposure of conditions in Missouri three years ago, but few were found willing to credit its statements. The politicians and their organs swept the charges aside as the "imaginations of a diseased and distorted mind."

What are these same organs and politicians saying today? Seeing that they can no longer fool the people, with one voice they proclaim against bribery and corruption. Even Gov. Dockery stepped down off his high perch and instead of repeating that "bribe is not an issue in Missouri," he sent a message to the legislature declaring that bribery and corruption in public affairs must be eradicated.

Believing that its readers are now thoroughly familiar with affairs in Missouri, the Kicker will branch out and show conditions as they exist elsewhere.

Wherever the affairs of the nation have been probed, wherever the affairs of a state have been probed, wherever the affairs of a city or municipality have been probed, the rank corruption has been shown to exist.

Only last week the supreme court of Colorado found it necessary to do business behind locked doors to evade service in mandamus proceedings. That supreme court is engaged in stealing the state election for the mine owners' candidate—Peabody.

What are we coming to when our highest courts show less respect for law than the humblest saloon bum? These conditions cannot last. Matters are coming to a show-down. People are no longer satisfied with everything the capitalist judges and officers declare to be the "law." And the Kicker predicts that within five years things will either change for the better or there will be revolution.

Elections are stolen with impunity—and with the aid and assistance of the highest authority. The law is construed by the courts to mean one thing for the rich and quite another for the poor. There was a time when it was considered next to blasphemy to question the honesty and integrity of the higher courts. Not so now, since many of these courts have degraded themselves to the level of the lowest ward politician.

Last week I tried to make it plain that there is no competition among our "captains of industry." Occasionally there is a war of extermination, but no competition. Once in a while a man or set of men not familiar with the system bob up and conclude to do an honest and independent business. A war of extermination then sets in and no independent concern has ever been known to survive.

Talk about anarchy! Talk about barbarism! Talk about cannibals! None are so heartless, none are so cruel, none have strayed away from the teachings of Christ so far as the barbarians who build public libraries, build fashionable churches and endow our educational institutions.

But all these things are a part of the system. Carnegie and others build libraries, but they see to it that no books are admitted that would tend to decrease respect for organized greed. Rockefeller & Co. build churches and universities, but no preacher or teacher is employed who will not preach and teach that God, in his wisdom, placed great wealth in the hands of his chosen ones as trustees for the less fortunate.

This is the system in a nutshell. The press, the pulpit and the schools teach us that "competition is the life of trade." Honestly applied, no fault could be found with such teaching. But when competition is confined only to those who have little to compete for, then an honest press, an honest pulpit and an honest school should teach the "underdogs" to quit fighting among themselves and do as their more fortunate brothers do—combine.

The men who raise the cotton, the wool, the corn, the wheat, the hogs and the cattle, feed and clothe the world. It is to them the world looks for every necessity of life. Let them cease to dig for one season and you would find the world set of New York willing to part with a dog or a monkey in exchange for a loaf of bread.

Just think of what the producing masses could accomplish if they were as greedy, as unprincipled and as cunning as the consuming classes. Suppose the farmers were as thoroughly organized as the bankers, the railroads, the manufacturers, or any other branch of our industrial system. Suppose there were farmers in the United States senate instead of millionaires. Suppose there were farmers in the national congress instead of corporation lawyers and cheap politicians. Suppose this farmers' congress passed a law forbidding the importation of anything that can be raised on the farms of the United States.

Keep track of this, Mr. Farmer. This is the "protective system" that you are told so much about.

Suppose your farmers' congress would fix a tariff or tax of \$1 per bushel on wheat, fifty cents a bushel on corn, ten cents a pound on meat and so on, so that the farmers of Canada to the north, Mexico to the south and of all Europe, Asia and Africa could not compete with you without first paying the above tariff schedule.

Wouldn't that give you a monopoly of the feeding and clothing of the people of the United States?

The farmers of no other country could compete with you without first paying more than the cost of production for the privilege of selling in your market.

Wouldn't that be a good thing for you? It might be a little hard on the rest of us to have to dig up a diamond to exchange for a peck of your money wheat, but you could stick out your big tank and exclaim, like St. Baer of the coal business: "God in his wisdom ordained it so."

But I am going a little too fast. You could not speak with the dignity and assumption of Mr. Baer unless you were as thoroughly organized as the coal trust and every other trust in the nation—including the farm machinery trust.

Suppose now that you are organized. Word comes from headquarters that you must produce only half as much wheat as last year. You must let half your land lie idle. You must let up on the raising of hogs, cattle, chickens and the like. In other words, your farmers' congress has protected you against foreign competition and there is no money in a fight at home. Cut down production just to the needy point and then fix prices.

Cut down the labor employed by half. If the discharged men can find nothing to do, build poor houses for them. Let the men who do work pay the expense. For this purpose establish saloons so they can pay the tax across the bar and look pleasant.

With the above tariff schedule in force the foreigner could not bring his wheat here and offer it for less than \$2 per bushel. He would have to pay the tariff tax of \$1 and the cost of transportation. You could hold your wheat at \$1.75 per bushel and get it. The same is true of your other products.

Suppose the government reports showed the grain elevators empty and only half a crop growing. Don't you think there would be men around trying to contract for grain enough to live on during the coming year, if they could get it for less than the imported grain would cost? Do you believe that you would have to hunt up a buyer representing the grain trust and pleadingly ask: "What will you give?"

Suppose the order should go forth that the production of meat should be decreased one half, do you believe that the meat trust would ask to be permitted to fix the price?

Suppose the farmer's wife should resort to the extreme methods of the banana trust that dumps car-loads of bananas into the river rather than overstock the market, don't you think the farmer's wife could hold the price of eggs at twenty-five cents a dozen during any season of the year and force the price to fifty cents during holidays?

Will you organize and stop competition among yourselves, or will you continue to tell the merchant that "her butter ain't as good as mine," and continue to scarp and be satisfied with the crumbs that fall from above?

In his last message to the legislature Gov. Dockery recommended liberal appropriations for the support of the National Guard. How many of you are aware that what was once your state militia is now under control of the president? And yet the men who slyly did this trick would oppose the government ownership of railroads on the ground that it would "centralize power."

Again, how many of you are aware that you are members of the National Guard and subject to the call of the president? If you don't know it you may find it out some day, if you are over 18 and less than 45 years old. Here is the first section of the infamous Dick law that passed congress in 1903. Read it and see if it doesn't catch you:

"Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the U. S. of America in congress assembled: That the militia shall consist of every able-bodied male citizen of the respective states, territories and the District of Columbia, and every able-bodied male of foreign birth who has declared his intention to become a citizen, who is more than 18 and less than 45 years of age, and shall be divided into two classes—the organized militia, to be known as the national guard of the state, territory or District of Columbia, or by such other designation as may be given them by the law of the respective states or territories, and the remainder to be known as the reserve militia."

So you see you belong to the "reserve militia." Commenting upon this law the Missouri World says: "When will you be called into active service? No. When congress shall pass a resolution declaring that your services are needed? No. You will be called into service when the president thinks he needs you. Here is the section of the new militia law which covers that point:

"Sec. 4. That whenever the United States is invaded, or in danger of invasion from any foreign nation, or of rebellion against the authority of the government of the United States, or the president is unable, with the other forces at his command, to execute the laws of the Union in any part thereof, it shall be lawful for the president to call forth for a period not exceeding nine months, such number of the militia of the state, or of the states or territories, or of the District of Columbia, as he may deem necessary to repel such invasion, suppress such rebellion, or to enforce the laws to execute such laws and to issue his orders for that purpose to such officers of the

militia as he may think proper." Was this law ever discussed by the people? Did any party ever declare for it? Did you ask for it? Did the people of any other section of the United States ask for it? No. Then who did?

Why, the "captains of industry" who are holding you up and robbing you every day. They fear that some day you might refuse to look pleasant while being held up. In that case you would be declared "rebel," as were the miners of Colorado who refused to submit to the tyranny of the mine owners, and all the available force of the nation would be at the command of the president to drive you into submission.

And this, too, in a "free" country where the constitution says that only congress has the power to declare war. But the hell with the constitution! say the "captains of industry."

It is fortunate that the senatorial contest in this state was so soon disposed of. No doubt the haste with which a successor to Senator Cockrell was chosen was a surprise to many. Usually when millionaires are battling against each other there is a dead-lock in the legislature, and sometimes the time of the entire session is consumed without a selection.

But the situation in Missouri and the temper of the people is not calculated to encourage bribery. The knowledge that Joe Folk would be at the head of affairs is probably the cause that legislators did not stand for the highest bidder.

Tom Niedringhouse, a millionaire manufacturer of St. Louis, was the successful aspirant. And what has Tom Niedringhouse ever done to entitle him to this position of trust and honor?

Because he had plenty of money he was made chairman of the Republican state committee last summer. They tell us that he was a "brilliant leader" and caused the state to fall into the Republican column.

Niedringhouse caused nothing of the kind. It was Dockery, Seibert, Cook, Allen and Stone that caused Missouri to flip over. If Niedringhouse caused the flip, why didn't he land his man Walbridge? It was not a Republican victory in Missouri last November. It was a people's victory. The people did it. They started out to overthrow the old machine and they made a good job of it. In Walbridge they discovered the en-marks of the machine and they promptly shelved him.

Niedringhouse was chosen in much the same manner that Bill Stone was chosen—the result of machine methods. As chairman of the state committee he was in close touch with the county organizations. As soon as it was certain that the legislature would be Republican he began operations and requested county committees to meet and endorse him. Eugene Brockmeyer, who was secretary of the state committee, resigned—giving as his reason that he had opposed machine methods by the Democrats and could not endorse the same methods by the Republicans. He refused to approve of Chairman Niedringhouse using the state organization in his own interests.

What had the people to do with the selection of a successor to Mr. Cockrell? Nothing. In commenting upon the scenes at Jefferson City during the senatorial contest last week the St. Louis Chronicle said: "We have the spectacle of one of the candidates importing a vaudeville troupe along with his other devices for his headquarters and giving entertainments for the purpose of winning favor. We are strongly reminded in this of the ex-

remely materialistic days of Greece and Rome when wealthy candidates distributed corn to the masses, or built baths, or gave public exhibitions in the amphitheatres to ingratiate themselves with the populace.

"Such methods are insulting to the decency of Missouri because they are predicated upon the assumption of a degraded moral and a dull sensibility which can only be aroused by flattery and glittering appeal. All qualities of fitness and virtue are ignored. The candidate becomes a patronizing thing and the people the dupes who are contented to be mere plastic images in his hands.

"Entertainment is not only dealt out in vaudeville; each headquarters has its various forms, whether in wine or song. The symbols of patronizing wealth are everywhere visible among them.

"Then we see the wives of some of the candidates in the midst of the wire-pulling, cajoling legislators indulging in all the fetching subtleties known to women outside the protection of her home. This is only corroborated of the grossness of latter-day practices in politics."

THE RURAL ROUTE.

Uncle Jack Dowell, our rural route carrier, is 62 years old. During the three years he has been carrying the mail he has never missed a day through sickness and is sprightly and good humored. He has a new mail wagon and will get a third in February. When he gets all together he will expect the teamsters along the route to give him the road.

But Uncle Jack has a pretty good lot of patrons and gets along with them nicely. He is better off than another rural route man who received the following note from a lady patron:

"As you run the free delivery route by my house I would like you to bring me on your next trip a barrel of salt, two sacks of flour, three spoons of wire, then throw a set of white-trees under the seat. When you come by Marion Waller's get two of his largest chicken coops, and then I will have my turkeys caught and you can take them to town. I wouldn't take you but a minute. And I have two loads of wood to get to town. Had I better get it out along the road, or will you go into the woods after it? I think the free delivery is great for us rural people."

The people of the United States spend \$900,000,000 annually for booze. This means more than ten dollars for every man, woman and child—black, white or yellow—in the nation. Now figure that the bulk of this enormous sum is taken by the national, state, county and municipal governments as a tax or license and you can draw an idea of the amount of revenue derived indirectly from one branch of business. It means an average tax of more than fifty dollars for every family. And the liquor tax is only a small portion of the indirect tax paid.

News comes from New York that Mrs. Wm. Aster engaged ten detectives to guard the jewels of her guests at a ball Monday night. The estimated value of the jewels belonging to the guests present was \$200,000. The Kicker man with his ten-cent collar buttons wasn't there.

Under Dockery nearly every member of the state committee was an office-holding appointee of the governor. Mr. Folk has announced that he will appoint no member of the committee to any office. That's the difference between machine government and honest government.

The Republic refers to Gov. Dockery's term as "four years of successful administration." Dockery's administration was quite successful in turning the state over to the Republicans.

It is now in order that the Missouri Health Society get active. The pure food law is threatened.

THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.

The new administration is now in charge of affairs in Missouri. Joseph W. Folk was inaugurated Monday and his inaugural address appears on the second page. Read it and see how different it is from the meaningless party rot that the people were subjected to by his predecessors. He says the promises he made the people during the campaign shall be fulfilled.

How different from the average man elected to office! Quite all of them never think of the promises made the people after the job is landed.

In his address Gov. Folk does not sputter about in generalities and meaningless catch-phrases, but hits the bull's eye every clip. He says bribery and corruption must go—and it is safe to say that not a legislator went to Jefferson City on a railroad pass this trip.

Representative Hill, of Butler Co., is the presiding officer of the House. Tuesday he took the floor and said that in the reforms suggested by Mr. Folk he was not a partisan, though elected on the Republican ticket.

How different from the established custom of opposing a thing just because the other side wants it! Mr. Hill offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

"Resolved, That this House express to the governor of this state the hearty approval of its members, one and all, of the splendid sentiment expressed in the governor's inaugural address touching proposed legislation, and that we assure him of our united and loyal support in the enactment thereof."

The passage of this resolution by a Republican House indicates that our lawmakers will put aside party nonsense and act intelligently—just as the people did last November.

FOOLING AWAY TIME.

Among the first bills introduced in the Missouri legislature is one making it unlawful to "tip" a waiter at a hotel or restaurant. How foolish! This bill was introduced by Dr. Tubbs, a Republican and an old member.

It is the practice of experienced legislators who want to "let well enough alone" to introduce nonsensical measures to kill time and prevent the enactment of needed legislation. What farmer, what mechanic, what laborer could be benefited by a law making it a misdemeanor to tip a waiter? If the well-to-do want to give the waiter a dime or a quarter, whose business is it?

Away with the nonsense! There is much for the legislature to do. Get out of the old rut and give us relief from the many ills with which the people are burdened.

In an attempted defense of the wholesale increase of salaries proposed by congress the Perry County Republican says: "Anyone of even average intelligence knows that the people pay no DIRECT taxes to support the government, to pay salaries, etc., etc. And it's a mighty good thing for the job-holders that they keep the people beggared by spending it out of them indirectly. If asked to pay it DIRECT they wouldn't do it, that's all they'd fight."

Now that \$1,000 tips from corporations are cut out of our legislators they want to shut off the indirect tip of the waiters.

Repeat the breeders' law, repeat the pure food law; in short, repeat the statutes. Never mind the tips to waiters.

The most discouraging news that comes from Jefferson City is to the effect that "Republican harmony prevails."

It snowed Monday. Ask Dockery. It was a cold day for the old ring.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS.

The editor caught a bit of encouraging information while at Illmo Saturday. It is reported there that when the bridge is completed, the Illinois will come in over the "Y" just put in at Rockview and that the line to Commerce and Benton will be abandoned. Undoubtedly this would be a blessing for Benton. For years we have hoped for better conditions along this line, but it grows gradually worse. It takes two days to get mail from either the north or the south part of the county. No other county sent town on earth would quietly submit to such conditions. New Hamburg tired of our service long ago and established a route from there. They now have splendid service, and if our citizens had any "guts" about them they would extend that route to Benton. But the only thing that stirs our "leading citizens" to activity is an effort to take from them their booze joint.

The state-sunk hole in the ground here ought to now crawl in that hole and then pull it in after them. The well men were here again recently and put down an additional 400 feet of casing in the hope of forcing the water up, but it wouldn't budge. This seems to be the end of it. And our Yakob's well will evidently stand to remind future generations of how we went into the county treasury to make business for a few in town.

H. D. Cunningham, of Illmo, transacted some business with Recorder Harris Tuesday—returning Wednesday. He has erected a commodious and substantial hotel building at Illmo and has great confidence in the future of that locality. Mr. Cunningham is a veteran school teacher of Southern Illinois and has a son editing a school journal at Blackburn University, Kentucky. He has rented the hotel and will engage in the real estate business at Illmo.

Marriage licenses: James Olford and Miss Laura Edwards; McMillin and Miss Laura Edwards; and Miss Minnie Nicholas; Clara Giddens; Truman W. Lee and Miss Lucy Barron; McMillin; Albert Bryant; and Miss Hattie Cape; Charleston; Chas. H. Yanson and Miss Corine Edmiston; Silveston; Ed. M. Kennon and Miss Jessie Seibert; Crowder.

The big bridge across the river is nearing completion. The iron work on all the spans excepting the channel is finished, and the falsework removed. The channel span will be constructed without resort to piling. It will be built from either side, the iron work being extended from two piers until it meets in the center.

The Cotton Belt and Iron-Mountain roads have decided to move their yards and engine house from Birds Point three miles south, opposite Wildfife, Ky., to avoid the circuitous route of the transfer into Cairo. Trains will then enter Cairo over the bridge from the Kentucky side.

A. L. Hawkins was in town the other day complaining of his delicate condition. He only weighs 235 lbs., and says he has a great big brother over in Kentucky who weighs 285 lbs. Mr. Hawkins should try some of the breakfast foods.

Louis Berger, the Illmo lumber man, and J. C. Allen, the Morley painter and paper-hanger, moved the snow-storm Monday and showed up at Benton.

Keep in mind the public sale of the Ballentine place west of Commerce, beginning at 10 o'clock on Saturday morning, January 15th, on 20th.

Freddie and Ned Scherer of New Hamburg came shudding into Benton Monday.

Business Local.

For Sale—A farm containing 80 acres—65 in cultivation. Good house, good orchard, good barn and all modern conveniences. Also stock, implements and household goods complete. Aged chance for a young man who wishes to start in life. Easy terms. Ambrose Bros. Commerce, Mo. 6-21

I have farms for sale of various sizes in Scott county near Illmo, Kelso, New Hamburg, Orion, Morley, Benton, Cary, Blodgett, Blidgett and Commerce. If you have any real estate to dispose of place it with me. If you want to buy, address: 19 P. H. Hawren, Benton, Mo.

Notice—I have taken up dark or black horse and about 18 hands high, 20 years old and knee sprung. I sold this mule to Henry Smith, now deceased, two years ago. Owner please call. Louis Pfeiffer, New Hamburg. 6-21

LOST—The tube containing surveyor's field notes for township 26, range 14 east, Scott county. Lost either between Morley and Benton or on north-bound 1. M. train Sunday, Dec. 11. Return to this office and receive reward. 5-31

NOTICE—A stray steer, white and black spotted, about 1½ years old, marked crop and underbit in right ear, is at my place, two miles northeast of New Hamburg. Owner please call. Wm. Goshe. 6-21

For Sale—Three Durham bulls and four Durham heifer calves; Berkshire pigs and a fine registered station. Farmers desiring to improve their stock should apply to W. C. Lambert, Benton, Mo. 4-31

Notice—The firm name having been changed to Lauck & Weismueler, all parties indebted to Lauck Bros. are hereby requested to settle at once. Lauck Bros., Kelso.

For Sale—A good farm of 140 acres—120 in cultivation, 3½ miles from Orion, 2 miles from Benton and 1½ miles from New Hamburg. Apply at this office. 6-41

For Sale—Milwaukee binder, Champion binder and a few plows at private sale. A bargain. George Roth, Illmo, Mo. 6-21

FROM ILLMO.

The statistical report of the Lutheran congregation read annually by the minister on New Year's day showed for the year 1904—400 souls, 248 communicants, 68 voting members, 22 christenings, 10 confirmations, 5 marriages, 5 deaths (only one grown person), 55 children at school and 660 partook of communion. On New Year's day the old trustees were re-elected, thus attesting the satisfaction given the congregation. An excellent financial showing was made. Besides paying the minister and teacher, there is a surplus of \$1,000 to evidence the voluntary contributions of communicants. More is likely to come in soon as the congregation is determined to erect a handsome church. They will first raise the money, however, or the greater part of it, but not by pious, social and the like. The community is prosperous and flourishing.

The new safe for the First State Bank of Illmo was placed in the Illmo Merc. Co.'s store Tuesday, where the banking business will be conducted until the bank building is completed. Cashier H. O. Murphy will be at his post Jan. 15.

H. D. Cunningham, proprietor of the Illmo hotel, spent a couple of days in Jonesboro, Ill., this week. The hotel is completed and will be ready for business in a few days.

In these times last week it appeared that the Concordia Choir presented their minister and instructor each with a "ring" as a Christmas gift. It should have been "BIG."

Contractor John Lucke is confined to the Cape hospital with a severe case of cold or pneumonia. When he recovers he will proceed to build the depot at this place.

Henry Holmann has sold ten acres of the four of the church to a man from Chicago. We understand it will at once be laid off into residence lots.

Messrs. Obermyer and Chester of Illmo have taken possession of the Lightner hotel and are ready for business. Drummers take notice.

R. W. Organ has a new cottage about completed in the Hillman addition. It is a model dwelling and a credit to the town.

Wm. Cruse, expert tonsorial artist of Grand Tower, Ill., is doing business in the new barber shop here. Call and see him.

The Illmo Mercantile Co. is erecting an addition to their building to be used as a furniture and hardware department.

Contractors Stone and Baird will build a 20x30 store room for C. H. Loos east of the M. A. Thomas grocery store.

Thos. F. Sellers spent two days of last week in Pineknobville, Ill. He says things are dull there, nothing doing.

Our new library room is in thorough running order and can supply you with the best of rigs day or night.

The Illmo Land Co. has let a contract for new dwellings, on which work will commence next week.

O. D. Edwards says undoubtedly the depot will be placed at Illmo as he has no other place for it.

Joe McGee says he will take the contract to paper the hotels at Grand Tower, Ill. to be let.

The boys gave an opening dance at the new Lightner hotel which was enjoyed by all present.

Miss O. D. Edwards has been laid sick for the past week, but is now somewhat better.

J. P. Lightner has reopened the ancient town of Tullahoma, Tenn. resident of Illmo.

Mr. Moody's new house, on the Illmo is completed and he has moved in. The dressmaker's shop is at Geo. Roth's instead of John's.

J. S. Moody moved into his new building Saturday.

J. S. Norman spent Monday and Tuesday in Illmo.

FROM EDNA.

Henry Schmetz bought the W. H. Albrecht house, which is under course of construction. Mr. Albrecht has gone to his farm near Wetang, Ill. and will return in spring.

C. F. Whitney of Indianapolis spent Monday here. He has several letters and was formerly superintendent of the McArthur Construction Company here.

Chas. Adams of Ossola spent a few days here this week, returning Monday. Mrs. Adams accompanied him home.

The new residences of Chas. Henry and Dr. G. S. Cannon are almost completed and are a credit to town.

A bank, in which Illinois capitalists will be chiefly interested, will open up for business here in the spring.

Albert Puchbauer has retired from the saloon business and sold out his stock to G. W. Kease of Illmo.

Mrs. W. Fornfelt, who has been confined to her bed for the past week, is slowly improving.

Mrs. Dora Bates is having material placed on the ground for her new house.

Lee Barnes has a neat four-room cottage under construction.

Mrs. Wm. Terry is on the sick list. Prof. Sibley went to Cape Saturday.

FROM COMMERCE.

Ed Clymer, who lived near Buffalo Island, was killed while logging Tuesday. A log tumbled over him and rolled over him. The remains were buried here Thursday.

Yancy Coffman and wife returned last week from St. Louis, where they had been visiting their parents.

B. F. Anderson is ill at present with pneumonia.

Wade Anderson went to Cape Tuesday.

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